COMPANY AFFAIRS AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI RANGARAJAN KUMARAMANGALAM) : (a) The expenditure incurred by the Government on holding elections is showing an upward trend.

(b) It is proposed to use Electronic Voting Machine at all byeelections countermanded elections which may be held after 1-10-91 use of these machines would greatly reduce expenditure in holding elections and there are other proposals in this regard under consideration.

Development of National Highway Between Bombay and Pune

2443. PROF. ASHOK ANANDRAO DESHMUKH : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to widen and develop the National Highway between Bombay and Pune;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken so far in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) : (*a*) *to* (*c*) Yes, Sir. A number of works costing Rs. 29·55 crores, consisting of widening to 4-lanes, strengthening of existing pavement and realignment of the road to improve geometrics are currently in progress on this section of NH-4. Further works will be considered after finalisation of the VIII Plan.

[*Translation*]

RRBS in Kanpur Dehat and Fatehpur Districts of Uttar Pradesh

2444. SHRI KESHRI LAL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Regional Rural Banks functioning at present in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) the number of branches of the said banks in Kanpur Dehat and Fatehpur districts;

(c) the average population for which a Rural Bank is functioning in Kanpur Dehat and Fatehpur districts; and

(d) the bank-wise details of losses suffered/profits earned by the banks functioning at present in these districts ?

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH) : (a) There are 40 Regional Rural Banks operating in the State of Uttar Pradesh.

(b) The number of branches of Kanpur Kshetriya Gramin Bank operating in Kanpur Dehat is 88 and the number of branches of Fatehpur Kshetriya Gramin Bank in Fatehpur district is 55.

(c) As per the provisional data, the average population served by each branch of a Commercial Bank in Kanpur Dehat is 10,608 and in Fatehpur it is 14,840.

(d) The Kanpur Kshetriya Gramin Bank and Fatehpur Kshetriya Gramin Bank had incurred a loss of Rs. 1·44 crores and Rs. 1·07 crores respectively during 1989-90.

[*English*]

Export of Jacquard Cloth

2445. SHRI D. VENKATESWARA RAO : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state : —

(a) whether the export of Jacquard cloth made at Chirala in Andhra Pradesh has been stopped by the Government; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT) : (a) Government have not received any reports about the stopping of jacquard cloth exports.

(b) Does not arise.

Exports to Canada

2446. DR. C. SILVERA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Indian exports to Canada are less as compared to those of other Asian countries;

(b) if so, the details thereof and reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government propose to take steps to increase exports to Canada;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) and (b) India's exports to Canada are higher than those of most of the Asian countries. However, exports from countries such as Japan, Republic of Korea, Taiwan, Hongkong, Peoples Republic of China, Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand and Saudi Arabia exceeded that of India. Most of these countries are industrialised and highly export oriented economies which give them a comparative advantage.

(c) to (e) Efforts are made to boost exports to Canada through various export promotion measures such as sponsoring of sales delegations, participation in fairs. In addition, interactions at governmental and private level help to increase exports.

Over the past 4 years, India's exports to Canada has registered a growth of 37% as per details given below

	million	%over previous year
1986 C$ . .	165·40	1·66
1987 C$ . .	170·86	3·30
1988 C$ . .	205·03	20·00
1989 C$ . .	224·09	9·29
1990 C$ . .	226·68	1·15

Validity period of "Pollution under Control" Certificates :

2447. SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKARA MURTHY
SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD } :

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the validity period of "Pollution Under Control" certificates for all vehicles in Delhi has been reduced from one year to six months; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Delhi Administration have explained that it would be desirable that a vehicle be checked up for pollution levels after every 3 months as the carburettor settings/tuning of the engine systems generally goes out of order during this period. The certification period was originally kept at one year in view of the fact that adequate testing facilities were not available in Delhi at that time.

Third Party Exports by FERA Companies

2448. SHRI HARI KISHORE SINGH : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the decision of the Government to permit FERA companies to engage in third party export of non-traditional items has adversely affected the small units;

(b) if so, the reasons for such a step;

(c) whether the Government propose to compensate the small scale units thus affected;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) No. Sir.

FERA companies have been allowed to purchase third party products for export only and not for domestic sales. This is expected to benefit small scale units in marketing their products abroad, especially those who are presently unable to find a foreign market for their products. There does not seem to be any economic reason that this policy would adversely affect small units.

(b) Not applicable.

(c) Not applicable.

(d) Not applicable.

(e) Not applicable.